

Message Text

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14

ACTION SCA-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 ORM-02

CIAE-00 FBIE-00 INSE-00 NSAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 VO-03 /061 W

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P R 120904Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9528

INFO AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

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FOR SCA LOREN LAWRENCE FROM MAULE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CVIS, CGEN, LE

SUBJ: LEBANESE REFUGEES

1. ENJOYED YOUR VISIT. FOLLOWING ITEMS MAY BE OF INTEREST.

2. AS MENTIONED PREVIOUSLY, EAGLE TRAVEL SERVICE JOUNIEH TRANSPORTED TO CYPRUS, ON AVERAGE, 500 DAILY DURING FIRST WEEK, 400 DAILY SECOND WEEK AND 250 DAILY THIRD AND FOURTH WEEK. DOWNWARD TREND CONTINUES. EAGLE TRAVEL REPORTS ONLY 18 CARRIED ON APRIL 9 AND 40 ON APRIL 10. HAVE DISCOVERED ANOTHER NEW SERVICE, IN OPERATION ONE WEEK, BUT TOTAL CAPACITY IS ONLY 120 A WEEK. UNDOUBTEDLY THERE ARE OTHER SMALL CARRIER, BUT IT SSEEMS EVIDENT THAT THE FLOOD IS LONG PAST ITS CREST.

3. ARTICLE IN APRIL EDITION L'ORIENT-LE-JOUR, LOCAL PAPER, CARRIES OBSERVATIONS OF FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS RE SITUATION AT LEBANESE-SYRIAN FRONTIER. ACCORDING ARTICLE, FOR SEVERAL DAYS THERE HAVE BEEN CROWDS OF DEPARTING LEBANESE AT SYRIAN ENTRY POINTS. NO PRECISE FIGURES GIVEN, BUT ARTICLE NOTES SEVERAL HUNDREDS OF VEHICLES, SOMETIMES HEAVILY LOADED

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WITH FURNITURE, WAITING ON MAIN BEIRUT-DAMASCUS ROAD.

IN VIEW ISOLATION OF CHRISTIAN AREAS OF LEBANON FROM SYRIAN FRONTIER, PRESUMABLY VAST MAJORITY OF THESE DEPARTING LEBANESE ARE MOSLEM RPT MOSLEM. WE ASSUME MOST WILL BE SCUTTling BACK WHEN TIMES ARE BETTER.

4. SAME EDITION CARRIED APRIL 8 AFP REPORT FROM STOCKHOLM RE PROBLEM OF LEBANESE CHRISTIAN REFUGEES IN SWEDEN. SWEDISH ENTRY VISAS WILL BE REQUIRED FROM LEBANESE, TURK AND SYRIAN REFUGEES. AEROFLOT CLAIMED TO HAVE LIST OF 1500 LEBENESE WAITING FOR FLIGHTS FOR STOCKHOLM. REPORT CONTINUES BY STATING THAT GOS SENT NEW INSTRUCTIONS TO ITS CONSULATE GENERAL IN BEIRUT REGARDING VISAS, NOTING THAT QUOTA FOR WELCOMING LEBANESE REFUGEES HAS BEEN OVERSUBSCRIBED. WITHIN SWEDEN AUTHORITIES WILL BE MUCH STRICTER IN GRANTING POLITICAL ASSYLUM TO LEBANESE. AUTHORITIES OBSERVE THAT QUOTE THEY COULD NOT ALL CLAIM TO BE VICTIMS OF OPPRESSION IN THEIR COUNTRY END QUOTE. THE SWEDISH AUTHORITIES FURTHER STATED THAT THE QUESTION OF WELCOMING LEBANESE REFUGEES MUST BE RESOLVED BY UNHCR.
BROWN

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